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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 41
By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Margaret and Erin Wills on their graduation from East Tennessee State University.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that members of this legislative body should honor those students who, through years of dedication and studious work, have proven their exceptional ability within the realm of knowledge; and

WHEREAS, It is also fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize families who understand the vital importance of education and are committed to learning; and

WHEREAS, The Wills family of Johnson County is one such family, which on December 12, 2002, witnessed the graduation from East Tennessee State University of two of its members: mother, Margaret, and daughter, Erin; and

WHEREAS, Upon her graduation from Johnson County High School in 1998, Miss Erin Wills matriculated at East Tennessee State University in the fall of that same year; and

WHEREAS, As a full-time wife and mother, and despite the responsibilities of a full-time job as Executive Secretary to the Warden at Northeast Correctional Complex, Mrs. Margaret

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Wills had previously earned her Associate's degree from Northeast State Community College; and

WHEREAS, Watching her daughter perform so successfully at East Tennessee State University, Mrs. Wills felt the need to continue her own education and joined her daughter at the school in the summer of 2001; and

WHEREAS, While attending East Tennessee State University, Erin Wills supervised her dorm as a Resident Advisor; and

WHEREAS, Miss Wills majored in Early Childhood Development and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the College of Education; and

WHEREAS, Erin Wills has since accepted a position with the Carroll County, Virginia, school system, which she will serve as a third grade teacher at Gladeville Elementary School in Galax; and

WHEREAS, Grateful for the example set by her mother and ever eager to further her studies, Miss Wills plans to continue her education and work toward a Master's degree in Education; and

WHEREAS, Despite living an hour away from campus, taking many of her classes over the Internet, and attending weekend seminars while continuing to work a full-time job, Margaret Wills graduated *magna cum laude*, with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Studies from the School of Continuing Studies; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wills was also inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Erin Wills thanks Margaret for her enduring support, and insists that her college experience was made easier by the presence of her mother. She says, "I always felt that I could call on Mom anytime, for any reason. . . . She understood completely about studying hard, meeting deadlines, and sharing all the exciting events, like making Dean's list"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Wills concurs, saying that her daughter was a great help, especially since Mrs. Wills was working under the added stresses of her job; and

WHEREAS, Mother and daughter are joined in this special and emotional celebration by proud husband and father, Skip Wills; and

WHEREAS, Erin and Margaret Wills epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; their pursuit of excellence in all of their endeavors is clearly deserving of the respect and admiration of this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Erin and Margaret Wills for their considerable academic achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and recognize Erin and Margaret Wills upon their graduation from East Tennessee State University, commend their many academic accomplishments, and extend to them our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.